

State budget slates \$10 million for UCR Medical School



The Health Sciences Research Building, currently under construction, will serve as the initial research platform for the UCR School of Medicine. Another campus building will be renovated to create the School of Medicine Education Building.

On October 8, 2010, Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger signed the Budget Act of 2010 providing \$10 million in funding for the School of Medicine at the University of California, Riverside.

The funding will support start-up costs for the first public medical school to be developed in California in more than 40 years. The mission of the UCR School of Medicine is training a diverse physician workforce and developing research and health care delivery programs to improve the health of medically underserved populations. The University of California Board of Regents approved establishment of the medical school in summer 2008. With the state appropriation, UCR remains on track to enroll its first incoming class of 50 medical students in fall 2012.

“This is wonderful news for Inland Southern California,” said UCR Chancellor Timothy P. White. “Even in these hard economic times, strategic investments for the future are vital. We are gratified that the community and our elected leaders concurred that confronting the physician shortage is a challenge we cannot afford to put off,” White said.

The first state funding appropriated represents a significant milestone for the developing medical school, said founding Dean G. Richard Olds, who arrived at UCR in February 2010. “Not only does this investment enable us to put the necessary pieces in place to open the medical school, but it also enables us to leverage other private and public funding sources,” he said.

